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Goddard Space Flight Center

Inside Wallops

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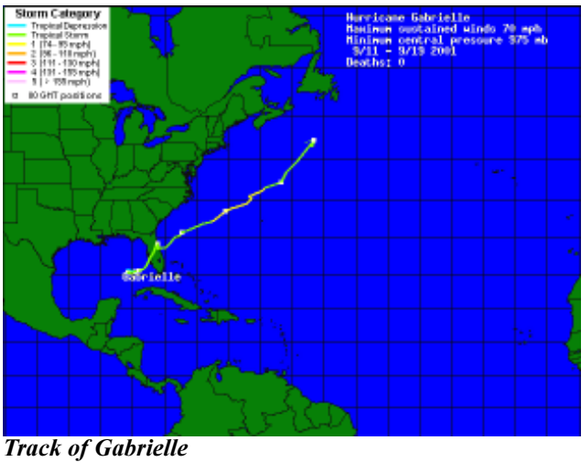
NASA Hurricane Researchers Study Intensity of Tropical Storm Gabrielle

NASA's Convection and Moisture Experiment (CAMEX-4) team had planned a flight into tropical storm Gabrielle on Friday, September 14 as the storm gathered strength in the Gulf of Mexico and moved toward Florida's west coast. Based at the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Fla., this flight had to be scrubbed due to high winds and heavy rain in the area.

A team of Wallops Flight Facility researchers in the Observational Science Branch has been participating in CAMEX4, a study of tropical cyclone (hurricane) development, tracking, intensification and landfall impacts that uses NASA-funded aircraft, satellites and surface remote sensing instrumentation.



Track of Gabrielle

Scientists from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Hurricane Research Division helped move two truck-mounted radars and a microwave profiling system that was stationed in the Florida Keys to a location further up the Gulf Coast near Venice, Fla. ahead of the storm on Friday. These ground-based components of CAMEX were successful in documenting the storm's landfall.

This was the first time a mobile 5 cm Doppler radar has intercepted a tropical system as it reached landfall. The radar observed winds just barely below hurricane force and were able to acquire data despite the buffeting from winds and torrential rain.

Gabrielle hit Florida's west coast with 70-mile per hour winds and moved across the state in an easterly direction packing high winds and heavy rain. The system spawned tornadoes, knocked down trees and interrupted power to over 500,000 homes. Gabrielle dumped several inches of rain causing flooding in some areas before moving out into the Atlantic early on Saturday, September 15.

NASA Dryden Research Center's DC-8 and the NOAA P-3 Orion aircraft flew into the storm with a team of some 30 researchers using several instruments to gather data about Gabrielle. An Observational Science Branch scanning radar altimeter mounted in the P-3 Orion was used to measure wave height and direction around the eye of the system. Instruments on the DC-8 measured the storm's structure, environment and changes in intensity and tracking.

During the almost seven hour mission, the CAMEX team flew three separate figure-four patterns into the storm and along the outer edges to gather moisture and convection data. The P-3 Orion flew to an altitude of from14,000 to 20,000 feet (6,100 meters) and the DC-8 from 31,000 to 39,000 feet (11,900 meters).

Researchers hope to determine why Gabrielle failed to re-intensify despite being over very warm waters of the Gulf Stream. Data gathered from instruments on the DC-8 indicate that there was unusually dry air and a strong wind shear at high levels over the storm.

Conditions were not acceptable for NASA's ER-2 to conduct high altitude missions on Saturday but it did fly in coordination with a NOAA research aircraft in and around Gabrielle on Sunday, September 16 as the system moved northeastward approximately 250 miles off the North Carolina coast.

The ER-2 flew at altitudes of approximately 60,000 feet (18,300 meters) to place dropsondes - devices used to measure the vertical profile of winds, temperature and moisture - at specific points on the perimeter and at the center of the diminishing storm. Instrumentation onboard the ER-2 also gathered remote sensing measurements that are similar to weather information gathered from satellites.

The CAMEX mission includes researchers from 10 universities, five NASA centers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Wallops Shorts…….

New appointment

John Hickman has been selected assistant chief of the Range and Mission Management Office, Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects Directorate.

Balloon Launch

A NASA scientific balloon was successfully launched on September 20 from Ft. Sumner, N.M. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried a cosmic ray experiment. Dr. Akira Yamamoto was the principal investigator. Weather conditions were excellent and the launch operation went smoothly. The balloon bubble restraint collar failed to release on command causing the balloon to fail at approximately 40,000 feet (12,200 meters). The payload was recovered in excellent condition. There was no reported injury to personnel or damage to property. Total flight time was 58 minutes.

Launches Cancelled

The launch of two NASA Nike Orion sounding rockets from Wallops Island carrying geospace science payloads has been cancelled. According to Dr. Charles Croskey, Penn State University, principal investigator for the missions, the science window has closed. These missions will be scheduled again next year.

Projectiles Test Firing

The U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center will be conducting the firing of test projectiles from Wallops Island into the Atlantic Ocean September 24 through 26. The project is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on September 24 and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on September 25 and 26. Backup days are scheduled for September 27, 28 and 29 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On the road

Ed Parrott, Wallops Teacher-On-Loan, conducted a science teacher workshop at the St. Francis de Sales School, Salisbury, Md. on September 18.

Taurus Rocket Fails to Deliver QuikTOMS to Orbit

The NASA QuikTOMS ozone monitoring satellite launched Friday, September 21 was lost due to the failure of the commercial launch vehicle purchased by the Agency to deliver the payload into orbit.

QuikTOMS was a secondary payload on board a Taurus rocket launched by Orbital Sciences Corporation from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California.

The tickets go to.....

Brett Mariner, CUBE, was the winner of two tickets to the Virginia State Fair in a drawing held September 21 in the WEMA Exchange. The Virginia State Fair is located at the Richmond Raceway Complex and runs September 27 through October 7.

Messages from the Heart

In light of the tragic events of September 11, government leaders, as well as a number of Goddard employees and friends, have written letters or sent e-mails expressing their thoughts, concerns and condolences.

A web site has been established on the Goddard internal home page to share these messages with the Goddard community. To view the messages, go to http://internal.gsfc.nasa.gov and click on the link "Messages from the Heart."

Autumn officially arrived on Saturday, September 22.

Resume Building Training

A NASA STARS Resume Building Workshop will be held, on Tuesday, September 25. There will be two sessions, one beginning at 11 a.m., and one beginning at 1 p.m., both in the Building E-104. No training forms or pre-registration are required; attendees may walk in.

This training is part of the NASA STARS (STaffing And Recruitment System) implementation at GSFC. STARS, a product of Resume Management, a pathfinder project managed by the Integrated Financial Management Program (IFMP), automates the NASA recruitment and staffing process. It was implemented at Goddard this summer and is being rolled out at all NASA centers through December 2001.

NASA STARS eliminates SF-171 forms, Optional Form 612, and KSAs from the application process. Instead applicants submit an automated "whole person/whole life" resume to apply for vacant positions.

The training sessions are designed to assist employees wanting to brush up on their resume writing skills and learn about building their whole person resume for STARS.

For additional information call Ann Richmond, x66-7571, or Denise Davis, 66-1382. You may access the Resume Builder function at nasastars.nasa.gov

Upcoming Training

Adult CPR

Building E-2
Oct. 22, 2001.
Two sessions will be held.
8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Basic First Aid

Building E-2
Oct. 23, 2001
Two sessions will be held
8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

This course is offered at no cost to all NASA and contractor employees. Submit a course registration form with supervisory signature. Respond before Oct. 5, 2001. Additional information and course registration forms can be found at: http://www.wff.nasa.gov/~code803/pages/training.html or call Dwayne Rye, x1884.

Aerobics Club

A new six-week session starts on September 24. There will be one-hour evening classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Building D-10, Gym.

Check out the Wallops Aerobics Club web page at: http://wwr.wff.nasa.gov/WAC/

For more information, call Annette Conger, x2596, or Jeanette Smolinski, x1512.

Used Media and Jewelry Sale

September 26
Lunch Time
Building E-2

Cassettes, Game and Video Tapes, CD's, Advertising Collectibles, Books, Jewelry, Magazines, Matchbooks, Photographs, Post Cards, Posters, Signs

Pig Pickin'

September 28 at 6 p.m.
Social Time - 4:30 to 6 p.m.
At the Pavilion

With DJ Herm from the best oldies to the newest dance music

Tickets are available at the Exchange Store, x2020, and at the Rocket Club, x1454.

Scheduled Service for NASA 8 Suspended

Effective October 1, the NASA-8 scheduled service between Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility, Langley Research Center, Reagan National Airport and the Baltimore/Washington Airport will no longer be available.

The decision to terminate the NASA-8 scheduled service to provide for more cost effective use of this aircraft based on projected cost and passenger use was made in July 2001.

NASA-8 will be available for charter service beginning October 1. Terms and costs for charter services are being developed and will be published soon. Inquiries regarding this service should be directed to George Postell, Chief of the Aircraft Office, x1529 or by E-mail: george.w.postell.1@gsfc.nasa.gov.

Guidelines for Foreign Travel

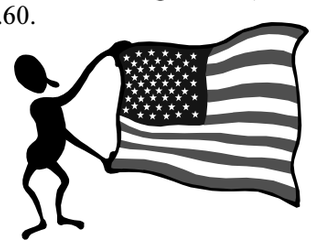
The U.S. Department of State has issued a Worldwide Travel Warning regarding travel to foreign destinations. In addition, the NASA Office of External Relations (Code I) has announced additional NASA procedures regarding foreign travel.

For details, see http://www.hq.nasa.gov/hq/foreign.htm

New Items at Exchange Store

United States flags for vehicle antennas and United States flag lapel pins Romper suits for babies, sweatshirts for kids.

45-minute calling cards (AT&T) for $3.60.



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http://www.wff.nasa.gov